

IN THE COURT OF CHANCERY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

HIGH RIVER LIMITED PARTNERSHIP,	:	
ICAHN PARTNERS, LP, ICAHN	:	
PARTNERS MASTER FUND, LP, ICAHN	:	
PARTNERS MASTER FUND II, LP,	:	
AND ICAHN PARTNERS MASTER	:	
FUND III LP,	:	
	:	
Plaintiffs,	:	
	:	
vs.	:	Civil Action
	:	No. 8762-CS
DELL INC., MICHAEL DELL,	:	
JAMES W. BREYER, DONALD J.	:	
CARTY, JANET F. CLARK, LAURA	:	
CONIGLIARO, KENNETH M.	:	
DUBERSTEIN, GERARD J.	:	
KLEISTERLEE, KLAUS S. LUFT,	:	
ALEX J. MANDL, SHANTANU	:	
NARAYEN, and ROSS PEROT, JR.,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	

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Chancery Courtroom 12A
New Castle County Courthouse
Wilmington, Delaware
Friday, August 16, 2013
12:30 p.m.

- - -

BEFORE: HON. LEO E. STRINE, JR., Chancellor

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SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

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7 for the Icahn Parties

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12 -and-
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20 Clark, Kenneth M. Duberstein and
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42 (Appearances continued):

Appearances continued:

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1 THE COURT: Everyone may relax.

2 This is, I guess, a historical
3 occasion in the sense that it may be the most well
4 attended scheduling conference at least in the last
5 few days. I apologize for burdening everyone's
6 lunchtime.

7 I am not going to burden it -- we're
8 not going to have a two-hour hearing. I'm going to
9 give you my reaction to all the papers that have come
10 in, and then you can move on with whatever your
11 clients wish to do in reaction to that.

12 I do want to say something. There
13 seemed to have been some misapprehension about why
14 this got moved to Friday. I think it's pretty clear
15 just if you read the papers carefully. Members of the
16 public that one of the claims for which expedition was
17 sought could not actually be filed until I believe it
18 was Tuesday or Wednesday.

19 So rather than proceed ahead of
20 something that actually existed, being more modest
21 about our place in the realm of things in terms of
22 being human beings who exist in chronological time, it
23 was decided to exist and to actually deal with the
24 claim when it existed. So that's the reason why it

1 was Friday.

2 Since I don't exist out of time, and
3 people may not wish I existed at all, but I don't
4 exist out of chronological time. I wish to deal with
5 things in the more traditional manner.

6 What I am going to deal with today is
7 give you my reasons for how I am going to proceed in
8 terms of the motion to expedite, realizing that there
9 are essentially two distinct claims on which the
10 plaintiffs, who essentially we'll call the Icahn
11 group, no disrespect to Southeastern, but I believe
12 Mr. Icahn and his entities have the bulk of the skin
13 in the game from that side, especially since
14 Southeastern sold some of their skin to Icahn.

15 There are basically two distinct sets
16 of claims. There's fiduciary duty claims, and then
17 there's the claim that was not ripe until the middle
18 of the week which was the Section 211 statutory claim.

19 I am going to deal with the fiduciary
20 duty claims first. I don't find any color to the
21 fiduciary duty claims or any threat of irreparable
22 injury that justifies expediting those claims.

23 To begin with, I take note of the
24 total absence of any credible challenge to the

1 independence of the Dell special committee. There is
2 no apparent reason to believe that the special
3 committee is acting from anything other than a good
4 faith belief that the meeting scheduled is in the best
5 interests of Dell stockholders as it's set.

6 The background facts about the buyout
7 process undermine any, and from this record, I mean
8 any credibility to the contention that the Dell
9 special committee would not be ecstatic if the Icahn
10 group would make a firm bid paying Dell stockholders
11 more than Michael Dell and Silver Lake Partners are
12 offering. I'll call them the buyout group.

13 But there seems to be -- I think the
14 special committee would dance in the streets if the
15 Icahn group would make a topping bid that was firmly
16 financed and would buy out everybody's shares at a
17 greater price.

18 The reality is, in fact, to that end,
19 the special committee offered the Icahn group due
20 diligence, expense reimbursement, and the merger
21 agreement that was negotiated gave them a continuous
22 opportunity to make a traditional topping bid.

23 Now, the Icahn group has argued that
24 the expense reimbursement offer was somehow illusory

1 because it was premised on an agreement not to run a
2 hostile proxy contest. I have a hard time, having
3 been around this business a long time, seeing how that
4 supports any kind of colorable claim.

5 It's, frankly, very untraditional to
6 offer anybody expense reimbursement for getting to
7 kick the tires and do exploratory research and making
8 a bid. That's a dollop of creme fraiche that people
9 don't usually get. That's a special inducement. And
10 it's essentially consistent with the traditional
11 stand-still that you would give to encompass a hostile
12 proxy contest.

13 So if you're going to give somebody
14 not only the opportunity to give them due diligence,
15 but to give them \$25 million in potential expense
16 reimbursement for their exploration, I don't really
17 get why this kind of condition gives rise to any
18 colorable claim of wrongdoing when used by a special
19 committee.

20 It just doesn't make any sense to me.
21 In fact, the fact that the special committee gave
22 expense reimbursement to a very well known private
23 equity firm and offered it to the Icahn group
24 illustrates its desire to get the best value.

1 The moving papers in support of
2 expedition, they're vivid, consistent with the
3 excellent prose style of lead counsel which I have
4 respect for. It's vivid, but it's essentially an
5 adjectorial assault that doesn't have nouns and verbs
6 that add up to a colorable claim.

7 One of the things it doesn't really
8 take into account is that the special committee has
9 had to address the realities of a constantly-changing
10 target from the Icahn group. We start on March 22nd,
11 a proposal where stockholders would get to roll over
12 their shares on a one-to-one basis or to sell their
13 shares for cash in an amount equal to \$15 per share
14 with a cap of 15.6 billion.

15 Now, I think right now a bid of 15
16 bucks, that wins. But that was March 22nd, and that
17 was a proposal, and it never turned into a binding
18 bid.

19 On May 9th, there's a modified
20 proposal. Now it's down to 12 bucks in cash or 12
21 additional shares. There wasn't a lot of details
22 about financing or debt commitments. We get to
23 June 18th; proposing now that rather than a bidder
24 making a traditional bid where it says, look, we'll

1 take the risk of running the company, we'll buy
2 everybody out, we'll take the up side, that the
3 company will do a self tender, and we won't sell until
4 the self tender, but it would only be 72 percent of
5 the shares at \$14 for a maximum of \$16 billion bought.

6 And the same day the Icahn group
7 announced a group of people who were going to be on a
8 slate of directors who I guess preliminarily believed
9 that was a good concept but recognized, and I'll get
10 to this in a minute, that if they're elected, they
11 actually have to sit in the fiduciary chair, spin
12 around in it, read the information and then make a
13 fiduciary judgment. But we're preliminarily committed
14 to it. But, again, it was only for 72 percent, and so
15 folks were going to actually have still a substantial
16 stake in Dell going forward and would have to consider
17 that reality.

18 Then we get to July 12th, 6 days
19 before the scheduled special meeting. There's a
20 revision of the Icahn group's proposal to add a
21 warrant to it, and the company would issue a warrant
22 where you could purchase a Dell share for 20 bucks
23 during a period of seven years.

24 So when we get to July 12th, we've got

1 many different moves and evolutions. The record date,
2 as of the time, was almost 40 days distant. There had
3 been an enormous amount of trading in the Dell shares.
4 I believe by the Icahn group's own argument, during
5 the month of July alone, over 25 percent of the float
6 was traded.

7 Now, the Icahn group comes in and says
8 that the Court should essentially discount the views
9 of the new owners of the shares because they're all
10 arbitrageurs. That argument is at odds with our law.
11 Delaware law doesn't disregard the rights of
12 stockholders just because they purchased in a fluid
13 situation and because the sellers to them, who
14 presumably were longer term holders, presumably
15 believed that it was a good time to cash out.

16 Likewise, the Icahn group's argument
17 that the interest of the special committee in allowing
18 the actual current holders of Dell a fair opportunity
19 to voice their views, that that should be disregarded
20 is at odds with the Icahn group's own behavior and
21 communications and its multiple changes to its
22 proposals.

23 Why? Because -- it's obvious why.
24 Those moves, which were happening, as I indicated,

1 well into July, were all designed to influence the
2 stockholder base, including by encouraging trading.
3 When you make proposals like "we've added a warrant"
4 or "we've sweetened the pot," you're trying to
5 convince the electorate to act on that new
6 information, including taking that into account and
7 making buying/selling decisions.

8 So to make moves specifically designed
9 to influence the stockholder base, and then argue that
10 the new base should not be reflected in the actual
11 vote, is not an argument in favor of enfranchising
12 Dell stockholders, but in fact, an argument for
13 disenfranchising them.

14 Given the stale nature of the record
15 date and the reality that many shares had traded
16 hands, the special committee's determination to set a
17 new meeting date does not create any colorable
18 impression of wrongdoing.

19 Delaware courts have never hesitated
20 to act when directors have used their legal authority
21 in a manner that disenfranchises stockholders. The
22 iconic case of Schnell versus Chris-Craft is an
23 example of when our Supreme Court granted relief to
24 the stockholders to prevent a board of directors from

1 moving a meeting date with the purpose of perpetuating
2 itself in office.

3 In another iconic case, Blasius, the
4 Court set aside the board's attempt to use its legal
5 power to expand the number of directorships because
6 that action was taken for the sole or primary purpose
7 of thwarting a stockholder vote.

8 The special committee's actions here
9 are different because they don't pose any colorable
10 risk of disenfranchising the Dell stockholders as was
11 the case in Blasius or Schnell.

12 Contrary to the Icahn group's
13 argument, the special committee's recent conduct in
14 negotiating changes to the merger agreement is not
15 disenfranchising. The alteration in the voting term
16 dealt with the reality that had emerged, and that's
17 not really traditional. It relates to the Icahn
18 group's own untraditional behavior.

19 The Icahn group was a party invited by
20 the special committee to an auction, and it chose not
21 to make a traditional topping bid, but, instead, to
22 propose to seat a board slate that would cash out some
23 but not all of the public stockholders' investments
24 using not outside funds but the corporation's own

1 funds.

2 The alteration in the voting condition
3 to the merger agreement still wrests control in the
4 ultimate decision to the public float, but recognizes
5 that the rival Icahn group was essentially differently
6 situated from public stockholders. It's a contest for
7 corporate control.

8 To prevail, the buyout group still has
9 to get a majority of the disinterested shares voting.

10 Furthermore, and importantly, the
11 moving of the record date has an enfranchising rather
12 than disenfranchising effect because it reduces the
13 chance that current stockholders will not have their
14 wishes reflected because of a stale record date and
15 the difficulty of securing voting by the previous
16 owners.

17 The entrenchment mode at work in
18 Schnell is also absent here where the special
19 committee members are not going to be directors of
20 Dell if the going private transaction they are
21 recommending succeeds. They're not trying to stick
22 around in office. There's no plausible basis for
23 arguing that they are.

24 Nor is it true that the special

1 committee got nothing from the buyout group in
2 exchange for revisions to the merger agreement. It
3 got an increase of ten cents per share in the merger
4 consideration, a 13 cent per share special cash
5 dividend to be paid prior to closing, and a guarantee
6 that the regular third quarter dividend will be paid.

7 If it is true that this is modest,
8 then the Icahn group's ability to make a traditional
9 buyout offer above the total consideration of the
10 buyout group remains viable. It's even more viable.
11 There should be a lot of head room then. Make a
12 topping bid if the gap in value is really that high.

13 Then there's the reduction in the
14 termination fee. It is a guarantee, and certainty
15 about what the termination fee will be if the
16 alternative goes forward, and it's a reduction from
17 \$450 million, arguably, to 180 million, that actually
18 helps the Icahn group, because if the worry is that
19 there are financing partners out there who you need to
20 assuage, that's pretty good math, 450 to 180.

21 If you only have to pay out 180, it
22 should make it easier to finance the company on a
23 going forward basis because they won't have to pay out
24 as much. So that should ease actually the ability of

1 someone else to finance an alternative.

2 It's easy, I guess, to trivialize or
3 say people should have gotten better deals. I'm not a
4 special committee member, and under our law, deference
5 is due to independent directors. This is fairly late
6 in the process, and you're dealing with a bidder who
7 has never actually -- who has had to suffer delay from
8 a go-shop period and to have other well-funded
9 entities such as Blackstone and the Icahn group get to
10 come in and kick the tires and even be offered
11 subsidies, and none of those groups has actually
12 offered a topping bid.

13 So it's hard for me, at this point, to
14 second guess or claim it's colorable, to second guess
15 the independent directors because they only extracted
16 23 cents per share, and a reduction of the termination
17 fee at this stage in exchange for this new dynamic.
18 I'm not sure what other leverage they really had.

19 As I said, peoples' own behavior when
20 a plaintiff comes in, and in the past, had put on the
21 table 15 bucks and has never made a bid, that may
22 suggest that there are some real world limitations on
23 how much anyone could pay for Dell.

24 Perhaps most importantly, I fail to

1 see how there's any color to the notion that Dell
2 stockholders face any coercion, preclusion or other
3 irreparable injury by virtue of the proposed schedule.
4 If it be the case that they don't like the increased
5 value, and they don't think it's enough, they can vote
6 no.

7 Whether styled as a Unocal, Blasius or
8 some hybrid claim, this is simply not a situation
9 where there's any colorable basis to fear that
10 stockholders who believe that they will be better off
11 if the merger is defeated, and that the Icahn group's
12 slate be seated, cannot muster the intestinal
13 fortitude to vote no on the merger on September 12th
14 and then vote yes for the Icahn group's slate at the
15 next annual meeting that the board set for
16 October 17th.

17 We're in America. The idea that we
18 don't have -- that our institutional investor
19 community can't, for a five-week period, stand firm
20 and vote its view, is not one that's apparent to me,
21 as I'll explain more.

22 So I think the core concern of both
23 Blasius and Unocal that stockholders will be thwarted
24 or coerced or precluded from exercising the majority

1 will, is not a threat that colorably exists here.

2 Analytically, stockholders attracted
3 by the Icahn group's proposal should not be rationally
4 affected by holding the annual meeting on October
5 17th. The whole premise of the Icahn group's proposal
6 is that stockholders will be elected, and it would be
7 better off if there's a new slate elected who will,
8 when they get in office, and upon confirming their
9 views as actual directors, with full access to the
10 company's information, and being subject to fiduciary
11 duties of loyalty and care, including those requiring
12 the corporation to honor its legal obligations to its
13 creditors, that they will proceed at that point with a
14 leverage recap cashing out 70 percent or so of the
15 public stock for a combination of cash and warrants,
16 and that that will be good for the public float
17 because the combination of the value of cashing out
18 71 percent or so of your thing, plus the remaining
19 value of your equity, plus the warrant will exceed
20 what the Michael Dell Silver Lake buyout group is
21 offering.

22 And in terms of the schedule, it's
23 important to note that the Icahn group's own proxy
24 slate recognizes that they will have fiduciary

1 responsibilities, and they actually have to study
2 this.

3 You're not going to be able to -- I
4 don't think they're going to be able to get elected,
5 and a second later, go into a board room and sign
6 papers. That would be a fairly hazardous thing to do.
7 They actually have to sit as directors and make that
8 decision, and therefore, they actually can't make a
9 binding commitment in advance to even consummate their
10 own proposal until they've studied it in a fiduciary
11 capacity and responsibly given it thought.

12 But even if they could do so, the
13 reality is the electorate has got to be voting for the
14 Icahn proposal and this slate on the premise that
15 they're making a determination about the value of
16 their remaining investment in Dell. So a couple weeks
17 could hardly be a deal breaker.

18 You can't rationally expect that the
19 benefits of this plan is going to pan out overnight.
20 And, for example, there was a sweetener added, right?
21 The sweetener added in July was what? It was a
22 warrant; a warrant to purchase a Dell share for 20
23 bucks that you could exercise over a period of seven
24 years.

1 Now, anybody going to exercise that
2 warrant this autumn? I think you have to figure out
3 that there's going to be value in the company that
4 remains even after you leverage it up on this basis
5 and if you run it where they're going to increase the
6 remaining equity value to the level where the warrant
7 has conceivable value. It could be people will buy
8 and sell this, but there's got to be that expectancy.

9 So you have to believe that Dell's
10 value under the management of a team put in place by
11 the Icahn group will increase the share value to where
12 the warrant will have real value.

13 Such an investor, somebody who has
14 value, would be thinking in terms of years, not days
15 or weeks, and would not be influenced by a difference
16 of a few weeks in when the vote was.

17 Nor does the meeting date, the
18 difference, seem to present any colorable basis to
19 believe the Icahn group can't itself push through with
20 its proposal unless it has a meeting on September 12th
21 rather than October 17th.

22 As I indicated before, whoever gets
23 elected at the meeting has to fulfill its fiduciary
24 obligations. If you've never been a director of the

1 company, even if you're a part of a group that has had
2 access to due diligence, it doesn't mean you have the
3 full range of information that's available to a
4 director.

5 It's not conceivable to me rationally
6 that if he has a board slate elected on September 12th
7 that they're going to be able to implement a financing
8 by the end of September, and, thus, the Icahn group is
9 likely to need an extension on its financing beyond
10 that anyway.

11 The Icahn group is providing much of
12 the financing, and if -- again, if this is a thing
13 where the warrant is likely to have value and these
14 other things are likely to have value, it's difficult
15 to understand how rational financing providers won't
16 extend it. It's also not clear why the fuse on the
17 financing was set so short in light of the
18 practicalities of trying to implement this kind of
19 recapitalization anyway.

20 So I don't believe that that
21 difference between September 12th and October 17th, in
22 terms of any kind of refining, provides any colorable
23 basis for expedition or because there's a threat of
24 irreparable harm.

1 Again, the reduction in the
2 termination fee that was secured should make financing
3 easier.

4 There's also the argument that it
5 should be expedited because the Icahn group cannot
6 land a world class management team unless the Court
7 somehow steps in and forces a simultaneous -- the same
8 day the merger and the election have to occur on the
9 same day.

10 That, to me -- one, it's factually
11 unsupported by any real affidavit or anything other
12 than just sort of pure argument. It ignores the fact
13 that the Icahn group has had many, many months to
14 secure an agreement with a top management team to run
15 Dell under an Icahn-led slate.

16 It ignores the fact that the Icahn
17 group was able to find folks who would put themselves
18 out publicly to be on a slate to be a director. It's
19 not clear why there aren't people who are willing to
20 step in and manage if they get paid, if they have the
21 prospect of doing so.

22 And there's a more important thing in
23 terms of the role of a court of equity in dealing with
24 a case that involves a stockholder franchise. If

1 anything, the failure of the Icahn group to yet
2 identify who they wish to act as Dell's CEO makes it
3 less rather than more equitable to grant its requested
4 relief.

5 If a credible CEO prospect would be
6 willing to surface if the merger vote is scheduled on
7 the same day as the director election, that CEO
8 prospect should be willing to surface if the votes are
9 on separate days.

10 After all, that CEO is committing
11 herself to managing Dell for a period beyond several
12 days, and under the Icahn group's own preferred
13 approach, that CEO has to surface before the merger
14 vote if the electorate is to take that into account.

15 That is, if you've got a nifty cool
16 CEO, and you're trying to allow the electorate to
17 consider that in connection with whether to accept the
18 going private, they've got to know who that CEO is.

19 But what if what the Icahn group is
20 saying is that it would be able to secretly secure
21 agreement with a credible CEO if a merger vote and a
22 director election are held on the same day and then
23 reveal its arrangements with that CEO candidate
24 publicly only after the vote? A court of equity is

1 not the proper source of aid to that, as that would
2 seem entirely inconsistent with the best interests of
3 the public stockholders of Dell.

4 This is especially so for a critical
5 reason. If the Dell stockholders choose not to accept
6 the going private offer from Michael Dell and Silver
7 Lake, they face a decision that is not nearly as
8 binary as the Icahn group suggests.

9 Stockholders could believe that Dell's
10 prospect as a public company under its current CEO who
11 is the founder, are such that the consideration that
12 the buyout group is offering is inadequate and that
13 they are better off remaining as stockholders with
14 Dell as a public company, but having Mr. Dell continue
15 to run it and try to turn it around using the unique
16 expertise he has in the company and in the industry;
17 that is, a rational Dell stockholder could vote
18 against the merger but not necessarily because she
19 wants to elect the Icahn group's slate.

20 Rather, a public stockholder might
21 believe that Mr. Dell can turn around Dell's
22 prospects, and that he should and will do so in a way
23 that shares the benefits with the public stockholders
24 if the merger agreement is voted down.

1 Such a public stockholder might be
2 grateful in some measure to the Icahn group for making
3 the case that Dell has brighter prospects as a public
4 company than its founder believes but not one to seat
5 the Icahn group's slate to actually run the company.

6 At an annual meeting, therefore, Dell
7 stockholders will have a choice, if the merger is
8 defeated, between an Icahn group committed to a
9 recapitalization and a slate committed to having
10 Mr. Dell remain as CEO.

11 At that point, the Icahn group will
12 either have or not have a CEO it can suggest, and the
13 electorate can consider that reality and draw whatever
14 implications from it for itself.

15 Now, in concluding that the Icahn
16 group's fiduciary duty claim lacks color, this Court
17 is not insensitive at all to the importance of the
18 stockholder franchise. The Court's ruling earlier
19 this year in *Kallick versus Sand Ridge Energy* is
20 indicative of that historical sensitivity and its
21 continuation.

22 But this Court cannot ignore that the
23 current situation is one when an independent
24 committee's good faith and loyalty have not been

1 reasonably challenged, and where the moving plaintiff
2 has been afforded a more than open chance and more
3 than traditional chance to make a topping bid and has
4 consistently failed to do so.

5 The Court can also not ignore that the
6 moving plaintiff has continually changed its own
7 economic proposal, and, thus, itself, created a
8 concern that the combination of a stale record date,
9 huge shifts in ownership and lack of time to absorb
10 new information will lead to a less than reliable
11 stockholder vote.

12 What the moving plaintiff is
13 essentially trying to get the Court to do is to usurp
14 the authority of the special committee's conduct of a
15 value maximization process by setting a court-mandated
16 meeting at which two separate votes have to be taken
17 on the same day.

18 Having provided the Court with no
19 colorable basis to conclude that the special committee
20 has acted in anything other than good faith, and
21 having provided the Court with no rational basis to
22 believe that the board's chosen approach will coerce
23 stockholders into voting for a suboptimal merger or
24 preclude a genuine topping bid or the election of the

1 Icahn group's slate at an annual meeting, if the
2 stockholders choose to reject the merger, it would be
3 inconsistent with equity to intrude at this sensitive
4 time. There is no threat of irreparable injury that
5 justifies the risks to Dell stockholders that judicial
6 intrusion would entail.

7 Now, that said, I have to deal with
8 the statutory claim. So I am not going to expedite on
9 the fiduciary duty claim. But I think I actually am
10 bound to set a hearing schedule for the Icahn group's
11 statutory claim. I will hear that claim because I
12 have to, and I respect the distinct roles of the
13 legislature and the Court. But I am giving fair
14 notice that what the statute says is that a court
15 "may" order a meeting if the board does not hold one
16 within 13 months.

17 By historical standards, the October
18 17th annual meeting that the board has set, which is
19 about 60 days after the 13-month annual meeting
20 requirement expired -- that was the reason. We were
21 waiting for it to expire. That occurred in the middle
22 of this week. It's, frankly, within the range of
23 meeting dates that this Court itself might set under
24 211 after an adversarial hearing.

1 In cases like Opportunity Partners
2 versus TransTech, this Court, in considering the
3 difficulty of preparing the necessary proxy materials,
4 ordered the company to hold an annual meeting within
5 60 days of the Court's ruling.

6 Other cases have ordered that the
7 company hold an annual meeting several months beyond
8 the 13-month deadline because of the realities of SEC
9 requirements, the requirements of setting a record
10 date in compliance with Section 213 of the code, and
11 the importance of giving stockholders time to digest
12 information in advance of making their voting decision
13 regarding who should serve on the board.

14 In the New Castle Partners case from
15 2005, for example, the Court ordered the company to
16 hold an annual meeting in 90 days. That's what the
17 Court said: You are having a meeting in 90 days,
18 after the company had failed to hold an annual meeting
19 in 14 months. Why? Because the company needed time
20 to comply with its mandate to make certain regulatory
21 filings in preparation for the meeting.

22 In the Shay versus Morlan case from
23 1983, the Court ordered the company to hold an annual
24 meeting in 70 days after the company had failed to

1 hold its annual meeting for 17 months because the
2 company needed time to gather information and
3 distribute it to the stockholder base so that the
4 stockholders could make an informed decision at the
5 annual meeting.

6 In Frank versus Sunstates, which is
7 from 1998, the Court ordered the company to hold an
8 annual meeting in 60 days after the company had failed
9 to hold an annual meeting in 15 months because the
10 logistical requirements for a meeting required the
11 Court to give the company time to prepare itself for
12 the meeting.

13 The reason for these orders are all
14 case specific, of course, but they are similar to the
15 practical concerns that exist here which are
16 compounded by the ever-evolving positions of the
17 parties, including the Icahn group, on the economics
18 and the resulting change in the stockholder base.

19 The reality is that a Dell annual
20 meeting held on October 17th will occur closer to the
21 statutory period than was ordered by the Court in
22 these other cases.

23 As important in these prior cases,
24 this Court has given considerable weight to the need

1 to set a meeting date that actually best vindicates
2 the stockholder's right to make an informed vote. The
3 prior cases indicate that the importance of insuring
4 that the protections provided by the SEC proxy rules
5 and the record date statute are honored, and, as
6 important, that stockholders have an adequate
7 opportunity to absorb relevant information and make a
8 reasoned choice.

9 Under the relevant federal securities
10 standards, it does not seem at all possible to have a
11 compliant meeting on the time frame that the Icahn
12 group suggests. And the October 17th meeting seems to
13 be a relatively aggressive approach to getting to an
14 annual meeting given the requirements of law.

15 Given these realities, what seems a
16 more reasonable remedy under Section 211 would be to
17 make the meeting scheduled on October 17th a
18 court-ordered meeting with the quorum set in
19 accordance with Section 211, and with the Dell
20 incumbent board lacking the ability to delay that date
21 unilaterally again.

22 And this means certainly notice would
23 be provided to all interested parties to this ongoing
24 contest for corporate control, that a board election

1 would be held no later than October 17th, 2013 unless
2 there was a specific order of the Court to the
3 contrary because of some unexpected development.

4 With such relief, all the Icahn group
5 would be required to do is to muster investors who had
6 the courage of their convictions to hold their stock
7 until October if they support a recapitalization whose
8 value substantially depends on the success the Icahn
9 group would have in managing Dell over a term of
10 years; not days, weeks or even months.

11 Now, what I'm going to ask the parties
12 to do, and they can report to me on Monday, is whether
13 you can agree to such limited relief. I'm not going
14 to foreclose the opportunity to argue for more.

15 As you can tell, I have tried to take
16 seriously all the input I have received during the
17 week. If you can't agree on that kind of relief, then
18 the Icahn group's opening brief in its 211 claim will
19 be due on August 21st, the answering brief
20 August 26th, and the reply August 29th. And I'll hold
21 a hearing on it in early September or late August.

22 As I said, I think we have to be
23 pretty practical here, and if you look at the cases
24 over the years and the practicalities, I find it

1 difficult to understand how the Court would order a
2 meeting much in advance of the one that the board has
3 already set.

4 And the Court is not going to get
5 drawn into a tactical game whereby it tries to
6 advantage one party or the other, nor is it going to
7 disrespect the reality that the special committee
8 members who are in office are, by all reasonable
9 accounts, acting independently and have no rational
10 entrenchment motive. So take this into account.

11 Again, basically, the motion to
12 expedite the fiduciary duty claims is denied for the
13 reasons I have given. I will expedite the 211.

14 I will also, if the parties agree,
15 make it a court-ordered meeting. I want to be very
16 clear about that just in case anybody listening to the
17 ruling -- the fact that it's a court-ordered meeting
18 does not mean that the Court would not have the
19 ability to change the date.

20 Why is that an important caveat?
21 Well, if somebody pops out a new idea 48 hours before
22 a meeting, then folks on either side would be able to
23 come to the Court and say, "Well, Nellie, you can't
24 just pop out this idea 24 hours beforehand and not

1 give the electorate time to absorb it."

2 But if we are at a point which the
3 Icahn group suggests, and, frankly, the buyout group
4 suggests, and I think the special committee believes,
5 where you have the Icahn group's position and where
6 they are, that their final sweetener is the \$20
7 warrant, that the Michael Dell/Silver Lake group's
8 final sweetener is what was negotiated with the
9 special committee, that everybody has their slate of
10 director candidates lined up for the annual meeting
11 that will occur if the merger agreement goes down,
12 then if the Court -- if those are the things and
13 nothing moves or shakes, then by having the meeting be
14 subject to an order of the Court under 211, then the
15 Icahn group will have obtained a substantial
16 protection against the company being able to
17 unilaterally move the date back.

18 That also, frankly, affords the Icahn
19 group some of what I understand it to be seeking;
20 which is to assure the stockholder base that there is
21 some end in sight.

22 Without embracing the notion that the
23 Icahn group itself has been part of the dynamic
24 situation that's kept it alive, I think one would say,

1 and probably all parties might agree, that there's a
2 level of deal exhaustion on the part of the buyout
3 group, on the part of the Icahn group, on the part of
4 the stockholders. And the special committee is
5 probably tired.

6 So there might be utility to all
7 concerned to knowing that the question is going to be
8 called before the World Series starts. Because the
9 World Series starts now in like January, right? I
10 think -- when is the NHL finals? It's pretty soon,
11 isn't it?

12 But seriously, that will put -- that
13 is not -- that is part of why we have 211 actually; is
14 that when a Court -- when it becomes a court-ordered
15 meeting, it does actually limit the ability of the
16 incumbents to really move it around.

17 So I appreciate you hearing my lengthy
18 thoughts. They are probably the lengthiest thoughts
19 I've ever had on a scheduling conference. But I tried
20 to be proportionate to the attendants at the
21 scheduling conference.

22 Why don't you consult with each other.
23 If you can't reach agreement, let me know, but that
24 will be the schedule, and our good reporter will

1 obviously get you the transcript.

2 Thank you, all.

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4 (The Court adjourned at 1:15 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, MAUREEN M. McCaffery, Official Court Reporter of the Chancery Court, State of Delaware, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 3 through 34 contain a true and correct transcription of the proceedings as stenographically reported by me at the hearing in the above cause before the Chancellor of the State of Delaware, on the date therein indicated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Wilmington, this 16th day of August, 2013.

/s/Maureen M. McCaffery

Maureen M. McCaffery
Official Court Reporter
of the Chancery Court
State of Delaware